

we can continue to have economic growth. They go out to Silicon Valley and say: We are with you. We are for the H-1B program. Yet they have spent all day filibustering it.

I don't understand it. You are either for it or you are against it. Now they say: Well, we are for it, but you have to pass a whole bunch of bills doing other things before we are going to let you adopt it.

I think it is time for those who need this bill to say to our Democrat colleagues: If you are for the bill, let us vote on it.

We have all heard the cliché, "if you have friends like that, you don't need enemies." The point I want to remind people about is that all day long, the Democrats have been filibustering the H-1B program. So if anybody thinks they are for it, the next time they stand up and say they are for the program, I think the obvious thing to ask is, if you are for it, why are you holding it up?

We need this bill because we want to keep America growing. I believe our Democrat colleagues are putting politics in front of people. This bill is important to maintain economic growth. It is important to maintain our technical superiority.

I want people to know, with all the thousands of issues that have found their way to the floor of the Senate this afternoon, that what this debate is about is that our Democrat colleagues say they are for the H-1B program, but they are preventing us from voting on it. If you are for it, let us vote on it then. If you are for it, end all these extraneous debates. If you want to debate giving amnesty to people who violated America's law, then offer that somewhere else. Propose a bill, but let us vote on the H-1B program.

Why do we need it? We need it because we want to maintain the economic expansion that is pulling people out of poverty. We want to maintain our technological edge. But we can't do those things if the Democrats don't let us pass this bill.

If you are following this debate, don't be confused. They say they are for H-1B, the passage of this bill, but they are working every day to throw up roadblocks, to stop it, and to demand some payment for letting us pass it.

Let me make it clear, no tribute is going to be paid on this bill. There is not going to be a deal where they get paid off to pass this bill. They go to California and to Texas and other places and say: We are for the high-tech industry. We are for the H-1B program. But the cold reality is that on the floor of the Senate today, we did not get to vote on it. We did not get to pass it. We did not make it law. We did not do what we need to do to maintain this economic prosperity and to maintain our edge in the high-tech area because the Democrats are filibustering H-1B. They say they are for it, but when it gets right down to it, actions speak louder than words.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). Without objection, it is so ordered.

H-1B AND H-2A VISA LEGISLATION

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I have listened to the debating back and forth on the issue of whether we do H-2A or H-1B.

I would like the American people to know that I think there is a lot going on behind the scenes. I think there is a lot that needs to happen behind the scenes, and quickly because both of these issues are legitimate issues. I believe America needs to make up its mind whether we want the high-tech industry to remain an American industry. It is vital to our economic good, and we are all proud of it. We all want to encourage it. We need to help the high-tech industry by raising the H-1B visas temporarily. Otherwise, this is an industry that is prepared to move to other shores. I would rather they remain on our shores because I think it does us an enormous amount of good.

In my State, and in the State of the Senator from Nevada, and so many States, we are seeing small businesses thrive with the development of this new technology.

But I also want to speak to the need that we not abandon the cause of the Hispanic and Latino workers. There are many proposals right now addressing their needs.

I happen to be a cosponsor of a bill, being argued by many on the other side of the aisle, which help these workers.

I think it is a crying shame that we have people living in the shadows of our society right now. These are people who are here; yes, many of them illegally, probably well over a million, and maybe as many as 2 million people who are working primarily in agricultural industries. These illegal workers have infiltrated many other industries as well. They have been here for a decade and more. Many people worry that if Congress addresses the worker shortage in agriculture, more illegal workers will come. I have news for them. They have already come. They are here. They live among us and contribute to our economy. They are contributing to our tax rolls, frankly, without the benefit of law.

I believe Republicans and Democrats ought to find a way as human beings to reach out to the illegal farm worker community. If it isn't with amnesty, there are ways we can allow them to be here legally.

A lot of people say we have no worker shortage in agriculture. I tell you that we don't if you include all the

illegals. But we owe something better to these workers and something better to their employers than an illegal system.

It is a crying shame, and we ought to be ashamed of it in the Senate, and do something about.

I know Speaker HASTERT is working on this issue in the House. I believe our Senate leadership is working on it here.

But I am in a dilemma. I will admit it right here on the floor of the Senate. I want to help the high-tech industry by providing them with highly skilled temporary workers, but I also want to help the workers in the agricultural industry who contribute to our economy and deserve our attention as well.

I hope that our leadership will respond quickly to the needs of the agricultural industry, as well as the dignity its workers deserve.

I see our leader is on the floor. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Oregon for his time in the Chair, for his commitments, and for the leadership that he provides in the Senate.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 109

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand that Senator REID is here. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 28, the Senate proceed to the continuing resolution, H.J. Res. 109; that the joint resolution be immediately advanced to third reading and no amendments or motions be in order; that there be up to 7 hours for final debate to be divided as follows: 6 hours under the control of Senator BYRD, and 1 hour under the control of Senator STEVENS.

Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be placed on the calendar when received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SUSPEND RULE XXII

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, pursuant to rule V, I hereby give notice in writing of my intention to move to suspend rule XXII to permit the consideration of amendment No. 4184 to S. 2045.

AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY ACT OF 2000—Continued

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate has voted 94-3 to invoke cloture with respect to H-1B legislation.

As Members know, cloture limits debate and restrains amendments to germane amendments only.

With that in mind, I want all Senators to know that the Senate is going to conduct a final vote on this legislation. We are committed to that, and we will get to that point even if it takes some more time. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will allow this bill to be voted on in the Senate. We have worked on it for months trying to get agreements to find a way to get conclusion. But it is time that we get to the conclusion and have a vote. I predict that the final vote on this bill will be somewhat like the vote we had on the FAA reauthorization bill some 4 years ago. There was a lot of resistance. It took a week to get to a final conclusion. The final vote was something like 97-3. I suspect that when we get to a final vote here it will be 90-10, if we can ever get a vote on the substance.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk to the pending first-degree amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the pending first-degree amendment (No. 4177) to Calendar No. 490, S. 2045, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to H-1B non-immigrant aliens:

Trent Lott, Gordon Smith of Oregon, Judd Gregg, Wayne Allard, Conrad Burns, Craig Thomas, Rick Santorum, Thad Cochran, Bob Smith of New Hampshire, Spencer Abraham, Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, Connie Mack, George Voinovich, Larry Craig, James Inhofe, and Jeff Sessions.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk to the pending committee substitute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the committee substitute amendment to Calendar No. 490, S. 2045, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to H-1B non-immigrant aliens:

Trent Lott, Gordon Smith of Oregon, Judd Gregg, Wayne Allard, Conrad Burns, Craig Thomas, Rick Santorum, Thad Cochran, Bob Smith of New Hampshire, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Connie Mack, George Voinovich, Larry Craig, James Inhofe, Jeff Sessions, and Don Nickles.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk to the pending bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

under rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 490, S. 2045, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to H-1B non-immigrant aliens:

Trent Lott, Gordon Smith, Judd Gregg, Wayne Allard, Conrad Burns, Craig Thomas, Rick Santorum, Thad Cochran, Bob Smith, Spencer Abraham, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Connie Mack, George Voinovich, Larry Craig, James Inhofe, and Jeff Sessions.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would be happy to vitiate the cloture votes on this bill if the Democrats would agree to that. I think we could get a time agreement and have germane amendments that could be offered, and we could complete it in a reasonable period of time. Perhaps we should have gone through a procedural effort different from what we wound up with, but I really thought that once we had the cloture vote this morning, we would be able to get some sort of reasonable time agreement—6 hours or more if necessary—and get to a conclusion so that we could move on to other issues. I am still open to that. I know Senator REID has put a lot of time on it and had some remarks today. I certainly understand that. The issue or issues that have been raised, I think, could be or would be considered on other bills and other venues. I hope we can work together to find a way to complete this important legislation.

Failing that, I had no alternative but to go this route.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. LOTT. I am happy to yield to the Senator.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I don't really understand because I haven't been there, but I have some idea of the burden that the Senator bears. I really do. It hurts me—I care a great deal about the Senator as a person—to delay what I know the Senator believes is extremely important.

However, I believe we should resolve this quickly. We could have a vote in the morning on H-1B. We, the minority, don't oppose H-1B. As I have said today, we want a vote on the amendment filed which we have been talking about all day. We will take 5 or 10 minutes a side and vote. We could be done with this legislation tomorrow at 2 o'clock in the afternoon or 10 o'clock in the morning, whatever the leader decided.

The debate we have had today has been constructive but, in a sense, unnecessary. I hope the majority leader, the man who has the burden of controlling what goes on here, especially in his waning days of this Congress, will meet with the caucus or make the decision unilaterally, or whatever it takes, and move on. Take care of the high tech people. Also, take care of the res-

taurant workers and other people who also need to be taken care of.

Again, we will take as little as 5 minutes on this amendment and have a vote and go about our business.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I might respond to Senator REID, I think he knows an effort was made a few days ago to see if we couldn't clear a limited number of amendments—and either without identifying what those amendments would be or identifying them—and we are not able to clear it. We couldn't clear it on this side.

We had Senators on this side that wanted to offer other issues, too, including the H-2A issue, involving how we deal with visas for agricultural workers. There are some Members who think we ought to do that. There are others who didn't think we ought to do it on this bill. While I understand what the Senator is saying, I have not been able to clear that, and therefore I had to move forward to try to get the bill to conclusion.

I always enjoy working with the Senator from Nevada. He has been unfailingly fair and has worked with us to move a lot of issues. I appreciate that. I regret we couldn't get this cleared. I did try to, but I couldn't get it done. So now we need to get to a conclusion on the underlying.

Mr. BIDEN. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. LOTT. I am happy to yield to the Senator.

Mr. BIDEN. I realize the leader, as Senator REID said, has a lot of burdens. But today the House passed, by a vote of 415-3, the Violence Against Women Act—24 Republicans and all Democrats. Seventy-one cosponsored the Violence Against Women Act.

I wonder if the leader would be willing to agree to a 10-minute time agreement and we could vote on the Violence Against Women Act tomorrow or some day?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, let me say we are going to try to clear that bill so we can get it into conference with the House. If we run into problems, whatever they may be, it is my intent that legislation will be on a bill that is signed into law before the end of this session. It is our intent to get it done. We will try a variety of ways to achieve that. We will want to put it on a bill that we hope will be signed into law. We are not going to try to put it on something that might not be. We will also be taking cognizance of what the House has done.

Mr. BIDEN. If the Senator will allow me a moment, it may be helpful for consideration to know I spoke with Republican leadership in the House on this issue, as well as here, and I am confident we can arrive at a bill that wouldn't require a conference.

So if the leader concludes at some point—and I take the leader at his word and he always keeps it—the intention is to bring this up, I think it may be possible we could literally pass a bill that would not require a conference. I raise that possibility.

Mr. LOTT. We will be working on that. I have had other bills that I thought would zip right through", no problem. We have one from the Finance Committee, the FSC issue, which is very important to compliance with the WTO decision. I am concerned now we may not be able to get that cleared.

We are trying to get appropriations bills considered by the Senate. We are trying to get an agreement to take up the District of Columbia, and we ran into a problem. I think maybe we are fixing that problem, but I am saying to the Senator at this point it is hard to get clearances. We did get one worked on regarding the water resources development bill, and we are doing other issues.

This is a bill we will find a way to get done before this session is over. We will see what happens when we get it together and try to work through it.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader. As I indicated to the majority leader, this may be a unique bill not unlike the one my friend, the Presiding Officer, has on sex trafficking on which he has worked so hard. This doesn't even have those problems. This has 415 Members of the House voting for it; 3 voting against it; 71 cosponsors in the Senate. I am willing to predict, if we can agree to bring it up without amendment, we will get 85 to 95 votes. This is in the category of a no brainer. HENRY HYDE is a sponsor of it. It is the Biden-Hatch bill.

The only point I make, and I will be brief, time is running out. The Violence Against Women Act expires this Sunday, September 30. It took me 8 years to get this thing done. It took 3 years after it was written just to get it considered. It took that long to get it passed. It has been in place for 5 years. There are no additional taxes required to pay for this bill because there is a trust fund that uses the salaries that were being paid to Federal officials who no longer work for the Federal Government; it goes into that fund.

As I said, if there was ever a no brainer, this one is it. Democrats like it; Republicans like it. As Senator Herman Talmadge from Georgia, said to me one night regarding another issue when I walked into the Senate dining room: What's the problem, JOE? I guess I looked down. He was chairman of the Agriculture Committee. I said: I'm having problems with such and such an issue. He said: What is the problem, son? I repeated; I thought he didn't hear me. He said: No, you don't understand. Republicans like it; Democrats like it. So just go and do it.

Well, that is where we are tonight. Democrats like the bill; Republicans like the bill; the House likes the bill; the Senate likes the bill; women like the bill; men like the bill, business likes the bill; labor likes the bill. So why don't we have the bill? And I have been hollering about this for 2 years now.

Hopefully, in light of what the majority leader said, maybe we will get to it.

I was beginning to get a little despondent. I was even thinking of attaching the bill to the Presiding Officer's bill to make sure we get it done.

Today the Washington Post, in an editorial entitled "Inexplicable Neglect," noted: "There seems to be no good reason, practical or substantive, to oppose the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act."

I ask unanimous consent the totality of that editorial be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

INEXPLICABLE NEGLECT

There seem to be no good reason, practical or substantive, to oppose reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. Originally passed in 1994, the act provides money to state and local institutions to help combat domestic violence. It is set to expire at the end of the month. Its reauthorization has overwhelming bipartisan support. But House and Senate leaders have yet to schedule a vote.

Versions of the bill have been favorably reported by the judiciary committees of both chambers. Both would expand programs that during the past five years have helped create an infrastructure capable of prosecuting domestic violence cases and providing services to battered women. Since the original act was passed, Congress has devoted \$1.5 billion to programs created by it. The House and Senate bills differ, but both would authorize more than \$3 billion in further support during the next five years. There is room to debate the proper funding level relative to other priorities, a matter which will be determined later by appropriators; and the programs won't end immediately if the act lapses, because funds have been approved for the coming year. But failing to reauthorize would send the wrong message on an important issue and, more important, could threaten future appropriations.

With time in the 106th Congress running out, the Violence Against Women Act may become a casualty for neglect rather than of active opposition. But that's no comfort. Congress ought to find the time to pass it before leaving town.

Mr. BIDEN. The act of 1994 signaled the beginning of a national—and, I argue, historic—commitment to women and children in this country victimized by family violence and sexual assault.

The act is making a real difference in the lives of millions of women. The legislation changed our laws, strengthened criminal penalties, and facilitated enforcement of protection orders.

I see my friend from California is here. When she was in the House of Representatives, she was one of the few people, man or woman, on either side that fought for 2 years to get this passed. I say to the Senator, the majority leader indicated he plans on making sure that this gets voted on this year. "This year" means the next couple of days or weeks. He says he wants to attach it to another bill.

I have been making the case, I say to my friend from California, that based on the vote in the House, 415-3 and 71 Senators cosponsoring the Biden-Hatch bill here in the Senate, we should bring this up free-standing. I was presumpt-

uous enough to speak for you and others and say we would agree to a 5-minute time agreement on the bill.

Mrs. BOXER. Will my friend yield for just a couple of quick questions, and then I will allow him to, of course, finish his statement.

First, I really came over to the floor when I saw the Senator took time to speak on the floor about the Violence Against Women Act. It was my great honor when I was in the House that he asked me to carry that bill those many years ago. I remember what a struggle it was. We couldn't get that House at that time to recognize this problem.

I have heard my friend say many times, even the words "domestic violence" indicate something that is different about this particular kind of violence; there is something that is domesticated about it. It is violence; it is anger; it is rape; it is hard to even describe what women, particularly women—although it does happen to men—go through.

So I took to the floor just to ask a couple of questions. In light of the House passage with the kind of vote you rarely see over there—my goodness, we hardly ever see a vote like that—and the fact it was freestanding, wasn't attached to any other bill, doesn't my friend believe we should bring this up—I agree with him—with a short time agreement, 2 minutes a side? It doesn't matter to me. We have talked enough about this over the years.

Doesn't my friend agree it would be much better to just bring it up free-standing instead of attaching it to another bill that some people may have problems with? Why would we want to take this idea, this incredibly important idea that the Senator pushed through this Congress, and attach it to another bill that may be controversial?

Mr. BIDEN. In response to the question of the Senator, I fully agree with her. I indicated that to the majority leader. To give the majority leader the benefit of the doubt, which I am prepared to do, I am not sure he understands how much support this has. When I indicated it should be free-standing, he cited other bills he thought were going to go through and they didn't go through and that was what he was worried about.

He had to leave here necessarily and so didn't hear my response, which is, this is not like any other bill. I have not heard of any problem. If any staff is listening—staffs of all one hundred Senators listen to proceedings. They are assigned to listen to them. I ask anybody in the Senate who has any problem with the Biden-Hatch bill to please come and let us know, to debate it. I do not know anybody who is even willing to debate it, to say they are not for it.

I would be dumbfounded, when in fact we bring this up, if we bring it up free-standing, if it didn't get everyone in the Senate voting for it. I would be astounded if it got fewer than 85 or 90

votes. I would not at all be surprised if it got 100 votes. But I am not sure the majority leader understands that.

Frankly, what the Senator from California and I could do with Senators HATCH and SPECTER and others who are supportive of this bill—maybe we can go see the majority leader tomorrow and lay out for him why we are so certain he will not get himself in a traffic jam if he brings this bill up and why he doesn't need to attach it to anything else.

Mrs. BOXER. Right. I say to my friend, since we are strategizing here in front of the world—

Mr. BIDEN. The whole world.

Mrs. BOXER. We might want to see if we could get some signatures on a letter asking him to bring it up freestanding because it seems to me to be the best thing to do.

Almost everything else we do, as my friend has pointed out, is controversial. But when you have a bill that has worked to increase the funding for shelters and train judges and doctors and the rest, and as a result we have seen a 21-percent decline in this kind of violence, it ought to breeze through here.

But I really came to the floor to thank my friend for his leadership here and his continued focus on this issue. A lot of us, as we get older, start thinking: What have I done that I am really proud of? I know my friend can truly say—and I can say it because I was fortunate he involved me in this early on—this is one of the good things, one of the great things.

I thank my friend and hope we can prevail on the majority leader to bring this up freestanding. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. BIDEN. I thank the Senator. I will follow onto that.

History will judge—and even that is a presumptuous thing, to think history will even take the time to judge, but some folks will judge whether or not my career in the Senate accomplished anything. I know for me, the single most important thing I have ever been involved in, and have ever done, and I care more about than anything I have ever been involved in, is this legislation. The thing I am most proud of is that it has become a national consensus. It is not a Democratic issue; it is not a Republican issue; it is not a women's issue, not a men's issue. We have taken that dirty little secret of domestic violence out of the closet.

Mrs. BOXER. That is right.

Mr. BIDEN. We have freed up, as a consequence of that, not only the bodies but the souls of millions of people and thousands and thousands of women.

As the Senator well knows, the hotline that she and Senator KENNEDY, Senator SPECTER, and others have worked so hard to put in place, that hotline has received literally hundreds of thousands of calls—300,000 all told—tens of thousands of calls over the years since we passed this, saying: Help me, help me. I am trapped.

I say to men who say: Gee, whiz, why don't women just walk away; Why don't they just walk away from this abuse they get; There are a lot of reasons they don't, from being physically intimidated, to being psychologically intimidated, to having no place to go and no financial resources.

Mrs. BOXER. Will my friend yield on this point?

Mr. BIDEN. Yes.

Mrs. BOXER. I think also—and I know he is so aware of this—another reason they do not walk away is their kids.

Mr. BIDEN. Absolutely.

Mrs. BOXER. They fear for their kids. With all of the attention we have paid to the entertainment industry—and the Chair has taken a lead on this—to call to everyone's attention the excess of violence and the marketing of too many R-rated films to kids, we know for sure, I say to Senator BIDEN, there is only one proven predictor that violence will be passed on to the next generation, and that is when the child sees a parent beat the other parent. We know that 60 percent or more of those kids are going to grow up in the same fashion.

I was going to leave now, but every time the Senator starts to bring up another point, it is so interesting, I am kind of spellbound. But the bottom line is, with this bill we are helping women and children and families. We are standing for the values that I thought we all mean when we say "family values." Again, my thanks.

Mr. BIDEN. I thank my colleague.

Mr. President, I will not go through the whole of my statement. Let me just make a few other points.

I must say I compliment the Chair for his work and his, not only intellectual dedication but, it seems to me, passionate commitment to do something about the international sex trafficking occurs. This is a women's issue internationally.

I suspect he feels the same way I feel about this legislation. I suspect he believes there is probably not much more that he has done that is as tangible and might affect the lives of people, that you could look to, you could count, you could touch, you could see. When I said there are a lot of calls, literally over half a million women, over 500,000 women have picked up the phone and called, probably huddled in the dark in the corner of their closet or their room, hoping their husband or significant other is not around, and said in a whisper, "Help me, help me"—given their name and address and said, "Help me."

Think of that. Think of that. A half a million women have picked up the phone. How many more have not picked up the phone?

The thing we should be aware of—and I know the Chair knows this—it is counterintuitive to think a child who watches his mother being beaten to a pulp would then beat his wife or girlfriend later. That is

counterintuitive. Wouldn't you think that would be the last thing a child would do? But the psychologists tell us it is the first thing. They learn violence is a readily available and acceptable means of resolving power disputes.

You know, as the Chair I am sure knows—I am not being solicitous because of his work in this generic field—about 60 percent of the people in prison today have been abused or were in families where they witnessed abuse. This is not rocket science. I hope we get on with it.

There are a few things I want to mention. This bill does not merely reauthorize what we have done. I made a commitment, when I wrote this bill and we finally got it passed as part of the Biden crime bill, that I would go back and look at it—and others have, too, but personally since I was so involved in it—and the parts that were working I would try to beef up; the parts that were weak and did not make sense, I would jettison. In the reauthorization, I would get rid of them.

I hope my colleagues will see we have kept that commitment. We take the parts we found were lacking in our first bill and we, in fact, beefed them up. We kept the police training, the court training, and all those issues. We kept the violent crime reduction trust fund which, by the way, gets about \$6.1 billion a year from paychecks that are not going to Federal employees anymore and go into this trust fund. It trains attorneys general and the rest.

What it does beyond all it has already been doing is it provides for transitional housing for women. We have over 300,000, in large part thanks to Senator SPECTER from Pennsylvania, who has been so dedicated in his appropriations subcommittee to this. We have built all these new shelters. We do not send women to shantytowns. This is decent housing with anonymity, giving them an opportunity to get out from under the male fist abusing them, and they can bring their children with them.

Seventy percent of children on the street are homeless because their mothers are on the street, a victim of domestic violence. We realized there is a gap here because there are so many women knocking down the door to get into these shelters to get out of abusive circumstances. We can only keep them there for 30 days, 60 days, sometimes longer. They cannot go back home because their husband has either trashed the home or tried to sell the home or they have to move back in with the husband. We tried to find some transitional housing that takes them down the road for the next couple of years and gives them some hope.

We also beef up cross-State protection orders. For example: God forbid there is a woman staffer in ear shot and she lives in Virginia or Maryland or a nearby State and she went to the court and said: Look, my husband or my boyfriend or this man has harassed me or beaten me, and I want him to

stay away from me. The court issues what they call stay-away orders, victim protection orders.

That woman may work in the District of Columbia. Now she crosses the line from Virginia or Maryland into D.C., and she gets harassed. The man violates the order, and she goes to a D.C. cop or D.C. court. They do not have any record of it. There is no record or they do not honor it. I am not talking about D.C. particularly. One State does not honor another State.

What we have done is beefed up the requirement that States honor these stay-away orders when women cross the line, literally cross a State line, cross a jurisdictional line.

There is a very well-known reporter at the Washington Post—although he has written about this, I am not going to take the liberty of using his name without his permission. His daughter was in a similar situation in Massachusetts. She was abused by someone. A stay-away order was issued. She was in Massachusetts. She was in a different county. The man, in fact, violated the order. They went into a local court. The local court, because there were not computerized records, did not know there was a State stay-away order.

By the way, the stay-away order says if you violate the order, you go to jail. If a man follows a woman into a different jurisdiction and the jurisdiction knows that order exists and he violates the order, they can arrest him and send him to jail on the spot because it is part of the probation, in effect, to stay away. It is part of the sentence, if you will; not literally a sentence. They can put him in jail.

George's daughter said: This guy has an order. He is not supposed to be near me.

The judge said: We have no record of that order because they are not computerized for interchange of these records.

They walked outside the courtroom, and this man shot her dead. He shot dead on the spot the daughter of this famous Washington reporter because there was not the honoring, even within the State, of these orders. We beefed that up.

By the way, in my State of Delaware, which has a relatively low murder rate, 60 percent of all the people murdered in the last 2 years were women murdered by their husband or their boyfriend. Did my colleagues hear what I just said? Murdered by their husband or boyfriend. The vast majority of women who are murdered in America are murdered by a significant other or their husband. This is not a game.

We are now in a position where there is, in fact, no authorization for the continuation of this law for which we worked so hard. Come October 1, which is what, how many days? Today is the 26th. The point is, in less than a week, this law is out of business.

I have much more to say about this, but I will not take the time of the Senate now. I am encouraged, I am heart-

ened by what the House did. I am encouraged by what Senator LOTT said to me today on the floor, and I look forward to the opportunity to convince the leader to bring this up in whatever form that will allow us to pass it because, again, this is not a Republican or Democratic issue. This literally affects the lives of thousands and thousands of women.

SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY IN SERBIA

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, on another matter which relates to another form of human rights, I wish to speak to the legislation we are going to bring up tomorrow, the Serbian Democratization Act of 2000. I am an original cosponsor of this legislation. I am told that tomorrow we are going to get a chance to deal with this issue.

As everyone knows, Slobodan Milosevic is on the ropes. Despite Milosevic's massive systematic effort to steal Sunday's Yugoslav Presidential election, his state election commission had to admit that the opposition candidate Vojislav Kostunica won at least the plurality of the votes already counted; 48.22 percent to be exact.

According to opposition poll watchers, Kostunica in all probability actually won about 55 percent of the vote, which would have obviated the need for a two-candidate second-round runoff with Milosevic, which now seems likely.

It is still unclear whether the democratic opposition will go along with this semi-rigged, desperation plan of Milosevic's to hang on by rigging the runoff. Even if Milosevic loses the runoff and is forced to recognize the results of the election, he may still attempt to hold on to the levers of power through his control of the federal parliament and of the Socialist Party with its network of political cronies and corrupt businessmen.

He may use the classic tactic of provoking a foreign crisis by trying to unseat the democratically elected, pro-Western government in Montenegro, a move I warned against on this floor several months ago.

We will have to wait and see for a few days before knowing exactly how the situation in Yugoslavia is going to develop, but there is no doubt whatsoever as to who the primary villain in this drama is. It was, it is, and it continues to be Slobodan Milosevic, one of the most despicable men I have personally met, and, as everyone in this Chamber knows, a man who has been indicted by The Hague Tribunal for war crimes and is the chief obstacle to peace and stability in the Balkans. Therefore, it should be—and has been—a primary goal of U.S. foreign policy to isolate Milosevic and his cronies, and to assist the Serbian democratic opposition in toppling him.

Earlier this year, with this goal in mind, the Serbian Democratization Act

of 2000 was drafted in a bipartisan effort. It is particularly timely that the Senate consider this legislation tomorrow, precisely at the moment when the Serbian people have courageously voted against Milosevic's tyranny that has so thoroughly ruined their country during the last decade.

I would like to review the main provisions of the legislation we will be voting on tomorrow and then propose alternative strategies for our relations with Serbia, depending upon the outcome of the elections.

The act supports the democratic opposition by authorizing \$50 million for fiscal year 2001 to promote democracy and civil society in Serbia and \$55 million to assist the Government of Montenegro in its ongoing political and economic reform efforts. It also authorizes increasing Voice of America and Radio Free Europe broadcasting to Yugoslavia in both the Serbo-Croatian and Albanian languages.

Second, the act prescribes assistance to the victims of Serbian oppression by authorizing the President of the United States to use authorities in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide humanitarian assistance to individuals living in Kosovo for relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction, and to refugees and persons displaced by the conflict.

Third, the act we will vote on tomorrow codifies the so-called "outer wall" of sanctions by multilateral organizations, including the international financial institutions.

I talked about this with Senator VOINOVICH of Ohio, and we agreed that we have to give the President more flexibility in this area.

Fourth, it authorizes other measures against Yugoslavia, including blocking Yugoslavia's assets in the United States; prohibits the issuance of visas and admission into the United States of any alien who holds a position in the senior leadership of the Government of Yugoslavia of Slobodan Milosevic or the Government of Serbia and to members of their families; and prohibits strategic exports to Yugoslavia, on private loans and investments and on military-to-military cooperation.

The act also grants exceptions on export restrictions for humanitarian assistance to Kosovo and on visa prohibitions to senior officials of the Government of Montenegro, unless that Government changes its current policy of respect for international norms.

The act contains a national interest waiver for the President. The President may also waive the act's provision if he certifies that "significant progress has been made in Yugoslavia in establishing a government based upon democratic principles and the rule of law, and that respects internationally recognized human rights."

Clearly, if the democratic opposition triumphs in the current elections, the chances will increase dramatically that the President will exercise this waiver option.